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called odontoid processes. These processes have been interpreted in the following way: the bodies of the atlas and axis, like those of most other vertebræ, have each two centers of ossification, a cranial and a caudal one. Ordinarily all these four unite in the adult to form the body and odontoid process of the axis, the atlas having no true body. In the exceptional cases above noted, it is supposed that only the caudal ossification of the atlas united with the body of the axis to form the odontoid process, and that the cranial ossification remained in place, thus producing an odontoid process on the atlas.

G. H. P.

Comparative Anatomy for Medical Students.—In the June number of the *Columbia University Bulletin*, Prof. G. S. Huntington has an able article on the importance of vertebrate comparative anatomy for medical students. The article outlines the policy which is shaping the teaching of anatomy in the medical department of Columbia, and will be encouraging to those teachers who, in preparing students for medical studies, have insisted upon the importance of vertebrate comparative anatomy as a key to the interpretation of human structure.

G. H. P.

The “claspers” or modified posterior edges of the pelvic fins of Elasmobranchs have been made the subjects of study by H. F. E. Jungersen.¹ The skeleton, muscles, glands, and integumentary investments of these organs are described first in *Chimæra* and then in the sharks and rays. The probable function of these parts is alluded to, and while no new observations are recorded on this little-known subject, the inference is drawn from the structure of the parts that they cannot be used as “claspers” or external “holders,” but they can be effective as hold-fasts only after they have been inserted in some opening such as the female cloaca.

G. H. P.

Cope’s Lectures on Vertebrates.²—For the past half dozen years students of the vertebrates have found the first edition of the present work indispensable, as it brought into a small compass a clear and concise summary of all the labors of Professor Cope upon the classification of the vertebrates, living and extinct. As the previous edition

¹ Jungersen, H. F. E. Ueber die Bauchflossenanhänge (Copulationsorgane) der Selachiermännchen. *Anatomischer Anzeiger*, Bd. xiv, pp. 498–513.

² *Syllabus of Lectures on the Vertebrata*. By Edward D. Cope. With an introduction by Henry Fairfield Osborn. University of Pennsylvania, 1898. \$1.25 (paper covers \$1.00).